

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND SENIOR SERVICES

OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES PO BOX 360 TRENTON, N.J. 08625-0360

www.nj.gov/health

RICHARD J. CODEY

Acting Governor

FRED M. JACOBS, M.D., J.D. *Commissioner*

October 12, 2004

Ms. Nancy D'Ambrosio 165 Herbert Ave. Fanwood, NJ 07023

Re: Notice of Proposed Revocation of EMT-Basic Certification

Investigation Control #04-C-018

Dear Ms. D'Ambrosio:

The New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services is vested with the responsibility of carrying out the provisions of the Health Care Facilities Planning Act, N.J.S.A. 26:2H-1, et seq., which was enacted, in part, to ensure that all hospital and related health care services rendered in the State of New Jersey are of the highest quality. As defined at N.J.S.A. 26:2H-2b, health care services include any pre-hospital care rendered by basic life support personnel. In furtherance of the objectives set forth in the statute, the Department of Health and Senior Services has adopted regulations that govern the training, certification and professional conduct of Emergency Medical Technician-Basics (EMT-Bs), such as yourself. See N.J.A.C. 8:40A-1.1, et seq.

On February 6, 2004, you contacted staff of this Department's Office of Emergency Medical Services (OEMS) and identified yourself as the training officer for Fanwood First Aid Squad. You stated that you were calling on behalf of your husband, Mr. Phillip D'Ambrosio, whose EMT certification had expired because he was not awarded credit for courses he had taken. You then stated that you kept copies of sign in sheets from all courses conducted at Fanwood First Aid Squad and would fax them to this office for verification.

Upon receiving the faxed documents, OEMS staff noted that Mr. D'Ambrosio's name had been added at the end of one of the sign in sheets, contradicting the OEMS copy of the original sign in sheet, which showed a different student's name as the last name on the sign in sheet. Also troubling was the fact that on a second sign in sheet,

the date and course numbers had been altered to coincide with Mr. D'Ambrosio's certification cycle. The course number used on this second sign in sheet that you submitted, #01-07-3007, does not exist. A similar course number, 00-07-3007, does

exist for a course that was taught at the Fanwood First Aid Squad in 2000, the previous year.

OEMS staff interviewed you on April 22, 2004 in connection with the above referenced sign in sheets. Neither you nor Mr. D'Ambrosio were able to offer a reasonable explanation for why course #01-07-3007, a number for which no corresponding course existed, was used on the sign in sheet. Neither you nor Mr. D'Ambrosio were able to offer a reasonable explanation as to why Mr. D'Ambrosio's name appears at the end of one of the copies of the sign in sheets that you submitted, yet does not appear on the OEMS copy of the original sign in sheet.

N.J.A.C. 8:40A-10.2(b) states that, "The Commissioner, or his or her designee, may issue a formal written warning, impose a monetary penalty, place on probation, suspend, revoke and/or refuse to issue or renew the certification of any EMT-Basic or EMT-Instructor for violation of any of the rules set forth in this chapter. This includes, but is not limited to:

- 2. Deceptive or fraudulent procurement of certification or recertification credentials and/or documentation;
- 21. Making material misrepresentations or providing false information on the NREMT-Basic Certification Examination and/or an application for EMT-Basic, EMT-Instructor or EMT-Paramedic certification or recertification;
- 22. Failure to complete continuing education and performance standards as required by this chapter;
- 23. Failure to comply with any part of this chapter, any applicable part of <u>N.J.A.C.</u> 8:40 or <u>N.J.A.C.</u> 8:41, or any applicable law, rule and/or regulation; and/or
- 24. Any other action deemed by the Department to pose a threat to the public health, safety or welfare."

In consideration of the aforementioned, this agency has determined that you have violated N.J.A.C. 8:40A-10.2(b)2, 21, 22, 23 and 24. Therefore, as a result of this investigation, please be advised that this Department intends to revoke your Emergency Medical Technician-Basic certification. Please be further advised that you are also prohibited from future certification as a New Jersey EMT-Basic as well as having EMT-Basic privileges in New Jersey.

Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 52:14B-1, et seq. and N.J.A.C. 8:40A-10.3(b)1, you are entitled to a hearing before the Office of Administrative Law to contest this proposed agency action. If you request a hearing, this agency action shall be held in abeyance until such time as a hearing has been conducted and a final decision has been rendered. Your request for a hearing on this matter must be submitted in writing and must be accompanied by a response to the charges contained herein. Your request for

a hearing must be submitted within 30 days from the date of mailing of this Notice and should be forwarded to:

New Jersey Department of Health & Senior Services Office of Legal & Regulatory Affairs P.O. Box 360, Room 805 Trenton, NJ 08625-0360 Attn: Ms. Michele Stark

Please include control number 04-C-018 on all of your correspondence. Finally, please note that this agency action shall become effective 30 days after this Notice has been mailed to you unless you request a hearing. Failure to submit a written hearing request within such 30-day period shall result in forfeiture of your rights to a hearing. If you have any questions concerning this matter, please do not hesitate to contact Mr. Samuel Stewart of my office at (609) 633-7777.

Sincerely,

Kau Haleyske
Karen Halupke, R.N., M.Ed

Director, Emergency Medical Services

c: David Gruber, Assistant Commissioner Michele Stark, OLRA Samuel Stewart, Esq., OEMS Charles McSweeney, OEMS Chistopher Tams, OEMS William Dougan, OEMS

SENT VIA REGULAR U.S. MAIL AND CERTIFIED MAIL # 7001 0320 0006 1159 8537 RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED